

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

East Liberty Association.

1897.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one only true and living God, and that there are three persons in the God-head—the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments is the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election, and the doctrine of original sin, and man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature by his own free will and ability.

4. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

5. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and that the saints shall persevere in grace and never finally fall away.

6. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are only subjects of the ordinances, and that the true mode of baptism is immersion.

7. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment, and that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joys of the righteous will be eternal.

8. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances only such as have been called of God, as was Aaron, and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery, and in fellowship in the church of which he is a member.

PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

SIXTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

EAST LIBERTY ASSOCIATION,

—HELD WITH—

Dadeville Baptist Church, Tallapoosa County, Alabama,

October 5, 6 and 7, 1897.


OFFICERS.

J. P. SHAFFER, Moderator, - - - - Dadeville, Ala.

W. C. BLEDSOE, Secretary and Treasurer, - LaFayette, “

The next session will be held with the Bethel Church, Chambers County Ala., beginning on Tuesday after the first Sunday in October, 1898. A. S. Brannan to preach the Introductory Sermon; W. J. D. Upshaw, alternate.

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PROCEEDINGS.

DADDEVILLE, ALA., October 5, 1897.

1. The East Liberty Baptist Association assembled in sixty-second annual session on Tuesday, October 5th, 1897, in the meeting house of the Dadeville Baptist church.

2. At 11 o'clock the Association was called to order by the Moderator, and after appropriate devotional exercises the letters from the churches were read and the following messengers enrolled:

1. Antioch—S. R. Woody, J. S. Woody, W. G. Longshore, J. B. White, W. E. Lovelace.
2. Beulah—W. H. Betts, G. W. Hunt, W. D. Lynn, W. Sherman.
3. Bethlehem—S. T. Shank, W. Scales, A. C. Bennett.
4. Bethel, Lee—J. T. Robinson.
5. Bethel, Chambers—T. N. Jones, W. L. Walker, J. W. Grady, W. A. Vinson, W. M. Cole.
6. Cusseta—W. D. Warlick, T. T. Meadors.
7. Center—C. P. Hunter, J. W. Foster.
8. County Line—W. W. Crouch, J. E. TeBow, R. F. Sturkey, W. G. Jarrell, J. C. Talbot.
9. Camp Hill—J. P. Seroyer, W. R. Dawson, W. H. Payne, A. C. Wyatt, J. H. Mayne.
10. Dadeville—J. H. Johnson, W. C. McIntosh, G. J. Sorrell, G. R. Shaffer, W. T. Herren.
11. Eagle Creek—A. Beck, W. H. Stone, J. L. Fuller, M. T. McElvey.
12. Farmville—R. N. Bottsford, W. S. Talbot, W. W. Bradley, R. Neighbors.
13. Five Points—
14. Fellowship (Tal.)—J. W. Dabbs, R. Dabbs, H. F. Smith, L. G. Jennings.
15. Fellowship (Ran.)—
16. High Pine—W. P. East, W. Z. East.
17. LaFayette—J. D. Abernathy, L. D. Blackston, G. L. Griffin, J. B. Barrow.
18. Langdale—T. J. Robinson, W. H. Maguire.
19. Lanette—R. A. Gaines, C. W. Calloway, Jas. D. Norman.
20. Lebanon—W. Y. Harrison, W. B. O'Brien.
21. Liberty—F. M. Handley, W. O. Orr, W. L. Cardwell, J. D. Motley.
22. Mary—T. J. Rodgers, W. C. Dorman, C. B. Pool.
23. Milltown—J. N. Hurst, J. R. Rotten, J. L. Denney.
24. Mt. Zion—A. F. Duffey, J. D. Lindsay, L. O. Earles.
25. New Hope—M. V. Maley, J. M. Veasey, W. W. Cofield, T. G. Crowder.
26. Providence—L. T. Morgan, R. Stevenson.
27. Pleasant Ridge—W. C. Roeck, W. H. Cook, J. M. Tilley.
28. Roanoke—G. W. Hill, H. T. Mathews, W. W. Langley, J. F. Barron, F. P. Nichols.

29. Rock Spring (Chambers)—H. W. Hammonds, C. E. Finney, W. T. Davis, G. W. Newman, Jas. Leech.
 30. Rock Springs (Tal.)—G. V. McCormack, W. C. Duffey, J. R. Prickett.
 31. Rock Mills—E. Shannon, Jas. M. Yates, James Walker, Sr.
 32. River View—J. R. Bradfield.
 33. Sandy Creek—T. D. Lunceford, J. F. Reynolds, H. Reynolds, N. G. Brazell, T. T. Tucker.
 34. Shiloh—T. J. Finley, J. B. Wester.
 35. Tallapoosa—H. W. Craddock, M. J. Banks, Chas. Henderson.
 36. Waverly—G. W. Ellington, W. E. Shealey.

3. Under the call for correspondents and visitors, the following brethren were enrolled:

From the Carey—C. J. Bentley.
 From the Tuskegee—Z. D. Roby.
 From the Central—W. R. Whatley.
 From Tallapoosa River—G. W. Baker, S. B. Smith, C. D. Baker.

Visitors:—J. R. Jenkins; A. J. Waldrop, Howard College; J. G. Harris, Alabama Baptist.

4. The Moderator announced the following special committees to report at the present session:

On Religious Services—The messengers from Dadeville church, F. P. Nichols and G. W. Newman.
 On Finance—W. R. Dawson, F. M. Handley, W. G. Jarrell.
 On Nominations—I. T. Morgan, G. W. Hill, W. H. Payne, W. C. Roock.

5. The Moderator, being pastor at Dadeville, was requested to name hours of meeting and adjourning, and he so announced as follows:

Meet at 9 a. m., adjourn at 12 m.
 Meet at 2 p. m., adjourn at 4:30 p. m.
 Meet at 7 p. m., adjourn at pleasure.

6. Adjourned with prayer by W. P. Cofield.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

7. The association met pursuant to adjournment and some minutes were devoted to prayer and praise.

8. Petitionary letters were called for and the church at River View presented a letter asking for admission into the association. On motion the church was received and her delegates given the hand of fellowship.

8. Correspondents were returned as follows:

To the Carey—J. R. Stodghill, A. S. Brannan, R. A. J. Cumbee, J. L. Gregory, J. P. Shaffer, G. L. Bell, L. L. Newman, A. Beck.
 To the Tuskegee—J. O. Bledsoe, J. P. Hunter, W. T. Foster, N. G. Brazill, W. A. Robertson, W. S. Talbot, J. Jesler, G. A. Hornady.
 To the Central—J. P. Shaffer.

To the Tallapoosa River—J. P. Shaffer, R. A. J. Cumbee, W. A. Robertson, J. O. Bledsoe, A. S. Brannan, W. T. Foster.

9. Delegates, as follows, were appointed to the Alabama Baptist State Convention, which meets at East Lake on Nov. 13th, 1897:

J. R. Stodghill, A. S. Brannan, W. J. D. Upshaw, W. C. Roeck, W. C. Bledsoe, J. P. Shaffer, J. L. Gregory, G. L. Bell, J. D. Norman, J. A. McCarley.

10. J. P. Shaffer was elected as messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention, which meets at Norfolk, Va., in May, 1898, and W. C. Bledsoe, alternate.

11. The reports on Missions—State, Home and Foreign—were read by the Chairmen of each, as follows:

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

The State Board of Missions is the organ of the Baptists of Alabama (1) in collecting and remitting contributions for Foreign and Home Missions; (2) in helping infant churches in important points where otherwise Baptist churches could not be established; (3) in prosecuting evangelistic work in the State at large for the further evangelizing and enlisting of our people in Christian work; (4) in doing missionary and colportage work where such is needed; (5) in caring for aged and disabled ministers and their widows and orphans against want; (6) in seeking to foster a spirit of fellowship and co-operation between churches in the Master's service and bring them to contribute to each other's upbuilding and mutual usefulness; (7) in helping to educate ministers on their fields (by institute work) and thus enlarge their usefulness while they continue the work the Master has set them to do.

It will therefore be seen that the work of the Board is far-reaching and of the most vital importance. It calls for your money, your heart and your prayers.

The line now most largely engaging the energies of our people is evangelistic work. There are in the several sections of the State six evangelists—Bro. Preston in the Southeast, Bro. Anderson in the East, Bro. Burns in the North, Bro. Sandlin in the Northwest, Bro. Dickinson in and around Birmingham, Bro. Parker in the Southwest. These brethren, selected because of their fitness for this work, are now operating under the appointment and counsel of the Board. This work is now comparatively new, but has already proven itself both wise and timely. It is almost self-sustaining, and every indication is that the number of men should be doubled very soon. These evangelists go wherever occasion most requires, preaching the gospel, enlisting the churches in missionary work, interesting brethren in each other, fostering and conserving the fellowship of the saints, educating our people in missionary work and the work of the Lord in general, and building up the body of Christ. We have every reason to be grateful to God for his blessing on this work. It is doing great good.

The united efforts of the entire brotherhood in Alabama is necessary—essential to the continuance of the progress now making in all of our enterprises. Our educational institutions have not been for years in so hopeful, safe and promising condition. Our orphanage is quietly, persistently, solidly making progress. Our evangelistic work

is increasing in efficiency, enlarging in territory and receiving the increasing support of the denomination, and the outlook calls for more men to occupy territories now ready for cultivation. Our contributions to Home and Foreign Missions are respectable. The look-forward of the denomination in the State has not been so encouraging, so full of hope, in years. We are making progress!

The time comes and now is when men and women of God need to know that it is a great honor the Father bestows upon them to allow them to give or to do effectually for the ongoing and upbuilding of his kingdom in the world. When the Master sent his disciples to the same work his Father had sent him to do, he greatly honored them, and thus he exalted them to the relationship of fellow-laborers in the development of his kingdom among men. This honor should make our gifts flow joyfully, as tokens of love; and make our zeal burn perpetually, "as he comes in to sup with us and us with him." To implant these divine truths in the hearts and minds of his people, we need to emphasize our institute work more and more, that our leaders and teachers "may rightly divide the word of truth" and be leaders rather than misleaders of the people.

We need also to convert our State Mission Journal into an evangelist, making it a weekly instead of a monthly journal, sending it free of charge into every Baptist home in the State. This evangel would go through rain and shine, through heat and cold into the highways and hedges, into the mansion and the hovel, driving out the poisonous, trashy "stuff" that comes in the guise of cheap friendship to blight the lives and curse the homes of so many of our people.

We beg to insist upon this point: To what better purpose could our beloved Secretary spend his time than superintending the mission work of the State and sending words of comfort and cheer into all the homes of our people, thus leading them into loving fellowship and hearty co-operation.

With the following statistics we submit this report for your consideration: The State Board received during the last convention year \$21,745.70. Of this amount, \$9,799.14 was for State Missions. This was expended to the best advantage in evangelistic, missionary and colportage work. The Corresponding Secretary informs your committee that owing to the threatened epidemics of smallpox and yellow fever, together with the low price of cotton, the outlook just now is that there will not be quite so favorable a report of the financial operations of the Board for the present year.

Respectfully submitted,

J. R. STODGHILL,
Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

This Board of Missions has for many years done excellent work in giving the gospel to the destitute in the bounds of the Southern States and in Cuba, also in the Indian Territory and Oklahoma. Church spires numbered by the hundreds, and the many thousands of souls who have responded to the glad notes of the gospel message as preached by the men of God, as sent out and supported by the Home Board, all stand as witnesses to us of the results, in a measure, of this potent agency for good. This department of Christian work has passed through many difficulties since its organization in 1845; but, under God, with our venerable brother I. T. Tichenor as Corresponding Secretary, the Board is doing much in shaping the destiny of our denom-

ination in the country. Brethren, we, as constituents of the Southern Baptist Convention, are urged to pray for this work and contribute liberally to its support. Above any State in the South, Alabama should cherish the work under the Home Board. Its first President and Secretary were Alabamians.

We refer you to the report of Dr. Tichenor for further information concerning the work. In the last fifteen years the work of the Board shows the following results: Aggregate number of missionaries under appointment, 4,644; sermons and addresses, 512,525; baptisms, 64,198; total additions, 127,648; churches constituted, 2,378; houses of worship built and improved, 1,232. Also the many thousand copies of the word of God sent out through this agency, eternity alone will reveal.

I feel that it is just that I should mention in this connection the noble work of our Southern women in connection with the Board. They have sent to our frontier missionaries during the past year in boxes of clothing, etc., to the amount of \$19,090.26, and in cash \$10,841.05. These godly women deserve our prayers and highest commendations for their economy in the management of their work and their self-sacrificing spirit. Also we would call your attention to the work among the negroes in the South. Let us join heart and hand in this work which God in his providence has placed at our door.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. D. UPHAW,
Chairman.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

THE ORIGIN AND BASIS OF THE WORK.

"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The gift of God was on account of his love for a lost world. The command of Christ to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature was but the expression of the will of the Father. As we enter into the love of God and the purpose of God we must become a part of his plan to save a lost world.

All missions are one. We divide the work according to different localities and call it by different names, for convenience, but wherever a soul goes for a soul to teach that one of God and lead him to God, there is a missionary. Blessed the one who is a missionary in his own home—thrice, yea, a thousand times blessed the one who can leave home, friends, loved ones, all, and go in the midst of superstition, sin, iniquity, in far distant lands to tell the sweet old story of God's love in Christ.

EARLY FOREIGN MISSIONARIES.

The early Christians, driven out of Jerusalem by persecution, "went everywhere preaching the Word." What seemed to them fearful trials was overruled of God to the furtherance of the gospel.

God called Simon Peter by a vision to a larger conception of the great work entrusted to him, and sent him out as a foreign missionary. Philip, preaching in Samaria, got a further call, and went south to preach to an African as he journeyed. Paul and Barnabas, under the guidance of the Spirit, were set apart for still broader fields of labor. God's love for the world seems to be the higher note to which all of these had and we must have our hearts and lives brought into unison.

THE WORLD IN THE CHURCH.

The gospel made wonderful progress in the earlier centuries. Then,

somehow, lethargy seemed to take possession of those who named the name of Christ. False doctrines had gotten hold of the people, and with these an indifference of souls for dying men.

The Master's words of simple faith and salvation were largely lost sight of in a glamour of senseless ceremonies and superstitious theories, while sin abounded. The world has gotten into the church. God hasten the day when Christ shall be enthroned King again! Oh for the day when every church and every member thereof will be a living representative of Jesus, working to save men!

THE REVIVAL.

With the reformation came a deeper sense of sin and more longing for true piety and holy living. Then several denominations of Christians, but more especially the Moravians, began in the spirit of Christ to reach out with the gospel for lost men in lands of heathen darkness. In England God's Spirit was working mightily in the heart of an humble cobbler and preacher, William Carey. The story is known of his going out to India in 1793. With Carey began a new era of Foreign Missions. The doctrine emphasized by Christ in his farewell words flashed out again upon God's people.

Carey called upon the people of England to bear God's command and to go forth in his name and to preach the gospel to all the world. Interest in the work grew. American Christians felt that they also must take part. Our people sent their contributions through the English Baptists. For over one hundred years Baptists have been doing a little foreign mission work. Now we have missionaries in six different countries. We append here a table showing the year of organization of the work in each country, and also other interesting data.

COUNTRIES. —	Organization.	Missionaries.	Native Assistants.	Churches.	Baptisms.	Membership.
China.....	1845	39	43	20	167	1364
Africa.....	1850	7	7	6	29	284
Italy.....	1870	3	28	21	93	490
Mexico.....	1880	15	17	29	112	1116
Brazil.....	1882	10	11	18	251	1022
Japan.....	1889	6	4	1	8	48
TOTALS.....		80	110	95	660	4324

THE BOARD AND THE BRETHREN.

The Foreign Mission Board is the committee appointed to do the work of Foreign Missions as the churches wish it done. They have no authority, except as they are entrusted with the same by the churches. If the churches say enlarge or retrench the work, that must be done. If the churches fail in their gifts, the Board has to retrench the work.

The task imposed on these brethren of the Board is much more difficult than many suppose. They give time, thought and labor gratuitously. Criticise them kindly, correct them fraternally, advise them freely and pray for them earnestly. God grant that the brethren of the Board may have his spirit freely, so that they may wisely administer the important work of the Master which their brethren have committed to their hands. And may the brethren, each and all, re-

member that it is God's work, and earnestly and prayerfully take part in the same for God's glory.

Our Association gave last year to Foreign Missions \$332.20.

At the last session of the Southern Baptist Convention, Alabama was asked to give \$8,100 for foreign missions during this conventional year, which is a little less than 7 cents per member.

Respectfully submitted,

C. J. BURDEN,
Chairman.

12. The reports on Missions were, on motion, made the special order for 10 o'clock to-morrow (Wednesday).

13. The report on Education was read by the Chairman, as follows:

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Just what scope our report is expected to cover, or what particular interest or form of education we are expected to discuss, your committee is at a loss to know.

The general education of the masses, as well as the higher education of the few, has ever received the warmest endorsement of Protestant Christianity, and the Baptist people are not behind its warmest supporters. They are the chief supporters and directors of some of the most distinguished schools on the American continent. In Alabama we were not preceded by any in promoting higher education. Judson Institute was founded in 1839 and incorporated in 1841. From the beginning until the present the Judson has stood in the very front rank of colleges devoted to female education. Alabamians ought to be proud of the Judson. There, above anywhere else, is the school for Alabama girls. The Judson is the richest legacy bequeathed by our fathers to our daughters, and it comes down to us enswathed in their prayers and undergirded with the very genius of our Southern civilization and our grand New Testament doctrines. Blessed be our fathers who gave us the Judson, and may God grant that we do not undervalue the splendid advantages which it offers our daughters.

Just the same may be said of Howard College, given to us for the higher education of our sons, and especially for the help of our young preachers. The Howard was chartered by the General Assembly of Alabama in 1841. It has been three times destroyed by fire. At first it was located at Marion, but in 1887 was removed to East Lake. Both of these schools are the property of the denomination, and deserve our warmest care and most liberal patronage. Other things being equal they are entitled above all others to our patronage. Our sons and daughters will be more carefully and tenderly educated in the Howard and the Judson than we could demand or expect elsewhere.

To us it is a matter of surprise and regret that our Baptist people neglect our own schools and send their children elsewhere. We feel sure that such a course is unwise, and should not be, unless there exists for it a good and sufficient cause.

There are several schools for higher education in Alabama that have been founded and sustained by the Baptists. We are sure that the Baptists, in common with other Christians, are the warmest and strongest supporters of education.

We may be allowed to suggest to our people, and to all Christians, that the cause of education, from the common schools of the country

to the greatest university, challenges our most thoughtful attention. The education of our children, and that of our entire country, is a duty of high grade and inestimable importance. Education, and especially the character of education, will determine the character of our civilization. Christians should exert themselves to see that the schools of the country are proper schools to assume the care of our children. We beg to say that Christianity is the mother of education, and that it should see to it that education is not prostituted in any way, especially not to the cause of agnosticism and infidelity.

Locally, education and schools are important to us. We are especially responsible for the grade and character of the schools in our own communities, and we should not neglect to earnestly and intelligently exert ourselves in their interest.

As to educational interest within our bounds, we may say that few sections of the state have as many good schools as we.

Respectfully submitted,

JOS. H. JOHNSON, Chairman.

14. The report was discussed by A. J. Waldrop, J. G. Harris, J. P. Shaffer and B. Walker, and adopted, after amendment, by which all reference to local schools was stricken out.

15. Adjourned to 7 p. m., with prayer by C. J. Bentley.

EVENING SESSION.

16. The association was called to order at 7:30 o'clock. The association sermon was preached by G. A. Hornady from the text, "There they crucified him."—Luke xxiii. 33.

17. Adjourned to 9 o'clock tomorrow.

WEDNESDAY—MORNING SESSION.

18. The body was called to order at 9 o'clock and devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator, after which the roll was read and corrected.

19. Report on Colportage was read as follows:

REPORT ON COLPORTAGE.

By order of the association last year colportage work was discontinued, and help for the weak churches in our association was recommended, hence no colportage work was done. It may not be amiss for us to say that we hope the stronger churches will extend help to the weaker ones right heartily. We thought then, and think now, that help for our weak churches will not only be the discharge of a duty long past due, but will also yield pleasant and profitable returns in the life of our weak churches. They have a right to look to us, above all other sources, for help, and it is our duty to help them, above all others.

Fraternally,

A. S. BRANNON, Ch'n.

20. Report adopted.

21. The special order, the reports on missions, was then taken up and the great cause was discussed by C. J. Burden, W. J. D. Upshaw, W. C. Bledsoe, W. R. Whatley, J. D. Norman, Geo. Hill, Z. D. Roby, J. P. Shaffer. The discussion culminated in a most gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

WEDNESDAY--AFTERNOON SESSION.

22. The Moderator called the association to order at 2 o'clock, and devotional exercises of special interest were conducted by the Moderator.

23. The pledges for next year's work were taken as follows:

Antioch	\$ 35 00
Beulah	30 00
Bethlehem	60 00
Bethel (Chambers)	40 00
Bethel (Lee)	20 00
Cusseta	75 00
Center	25 00
County Line	100 00
Camp Hill	100 00
Dadeville	150 00
Eagle Creek	20 00
Farmville	40 00
Five Points	20 00
Fellowship (Tal)	15 00
Fellowship (Ran)	10 00
High Pine	15 00
LaFayette	300 00
Langdale	25 00
Lebanon	20 00
Liberty	10 00
Lanette	30 00
Mary	10 00
Milltown	45 00
Mt. Zion	10 00
New Hope	50 00
Providence	20 00
Pleasant Ridge	20 00
Roanoke	300 00
Rock Springs (Tal)	10 00
Rock Springs (Cham)	50 00
Rock Mills	20 00
River View	15 00
Sandy Creek	35 00
Shiloh	10 00
Tallapoosa	20 00
Waverly	20 00
Total	\$1,775 00

24. A free-will offering of \$65.50 was given to Z. D. Roby, a much loved brother, who has been forced by ill health

to rest for a while from active work. This was a touching example of how God cares for his servants.

25. The report on Sunday Schools was read by the chairman, as follows:

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your committee believe that the Sunday School work is growing and strengthening year by year, and our people are taking more interest in the upbuilding of this one of the church's instrumentalities of evangelizing and Christianizing the world. We are impressed with the importance of the Sunday School but are not able to suggest a plan by which all the members of the churches can be induced to attend. The editor of the Sunday School Times tells of two churches in Massachusetts; one of them has a membership of 150 and absolutely every one of them belongs to the Sunday School. The other one has a membership of 536, and 512 are members of the Sunday School. How will the membership of our churches compare with them with reference to the Sunday School?

Will some one tell us how every church member may be reached by the Sunday School? The minutes of our last association show that we have in our churches in this association 3,827 members, and that two thousand five hundred and ten attend Sunday School. A large number of these pupils are not members of the church, so there is not more than one third or one quarter of the members of our churches in the East Liberty association who take any part in Sunday School work. One reason why more of the members of our churches don't attend Sunday School may be for the want of better teachers. But let us remember that not every teacher of the elementary truths of religion to children and youth has to be a master of all the higher truths of religion; that not every helper to study the Bible has to be able to read the Old and New Testament in the original tongues, and qualified to expound the Scriptures in their deepest mysteries. It may be true that a profound scholar in the realm of Bible knowledge is not likely to be, even if it were possible for him to be, so sympathetic and helpful a teacher of very young children, as a teacher to whom the primary truths of the Bible are as yet the chief treasures of his religious attainment. The element of sympathy with a young pupil in his luck and struggle is an element of power in a teacher in any branch of knowledge, and in no branch of knowledge is this element of power more obviously important than of teaching in the Sunday School. Every church should be careful to select the best men and women for its Sunday School teachers, but it is not absolutely necessary to have trained theologians. Young people may be more successful in teaching children than older persons; meanwhile, men and women of education and experience can do a work in teaching adults which the young could not do. We believe that there is need of men and women of different ages, and of different degrees of knowledge and experience for different classes and grades of scholars in the Sunday School. No person, however young or old, or of whichever sex, can be a true teacher without knowing what to teach, be it much or little, and how to teach it.

Respectfully submitted,

J. P. HUNTER, Chairman.

26. The report was discussed by J. D. Norman, Z. D.

Roby, W. J. D. Upshaw and Jas. Walker; the report was adopted.

27. The report on the Orphans' Home was read by the chairman, as follows:

REPORT ON ORPHANAGE.

Your committee regrets that no statistics are at hand as to the number of children who have been and are now being cared for at the Home. Most of you are familiar with the facts of the history of this noble undertaking, and the steadily increasing interest with which it is being fostered by our people. No condition of human misfortune so strongly appeals to our sympathy and help as that of fatherless and motherless children—especially in these times when selfishness seems to assert itself with a heartlessness hitherto almost unknown.

A practical suggestion comes from the trustees of the orphanage through Bro. J. W. Stewart, their efficient secretary, that the Sunday Schools of all our churches devote the collection on one Sunday in each month to this work. We are glad to know that some of the Sunday Schools of our associations have already adopted this plan with most gratifying results.

R. A. J. CUMBEE, Ch'n.

28. The report was discussed by R. A. J. Cumbee, Z. D. Roby, W. C. Bledsoe, J. L. Gregory and J. G. Harris. Pending the discussion the County Line, Fredonia and Roanoke churches each proposed to clothe one of the orphans. Further discussed by J. P. Shaffer and then the report was adopted.

29. The report on the Religious Condition of the Churches was read by the chairman, as follows:

RELIGIOUS CONDITION OF THE CHURCHES.

It is the opinion of your committee that the religious condition of the churches is fully up to the general average, and we think, rather above the average. As far as our knowledge extends, the churches are in peaceful condition; we know of no serious difficulties. Their contributions are not all that we could wish, but are fair; many very fine meetings have been held within our association, and the additions to the churches have been more than usual. We think that a rather healthy discipline is being exercised; we note with pleasure that our churches are more in sympathy with each other than we have ever known. This, we think, has resulted from the fact that our stronger churches have shown willingness to aid the weaker ones. It is more blessed to give than to receive, and so not only those that have received help have been blessed, but also those that gave.

Thanks be to God for the healthy condition of our association. We have lived together in great peace and unity for many years, and may the dear old Liberty continue in harmony as the years go by.

Fraternally,

G. L. BELL,
J. F. BREED,
A. F. DUFFEY,
M. V. MALEY,
Committee.

30. The report was adopted.

31. On motion the Report on Temperance was made a special order for 7:30 tonight.

32. The following resolutions were offered and adopted:

1. Resolved, That we call our Fifth Sunday meetings, "The Ministers', Deacons' and Sunday School Officers' Institutes," and that we devote one day during each session to discussion of Sunday School work.

2. Whereas, The Howard College is the Baptist college in Alabama for young men, and for that reason, as well as on account of the real merits of the school, it is entitled to the support and helpful influence of our people; therefore,

Resolved, That it is the sense and desire of this association that each of its churches shall at the earliest opportunity appoint a committee of three, the duties of which committee shall be to aid the college in securing students and to co-operate with the college faculty in such other ways as may be deemed helpful. We further recommend that this committee be known as the Howard College Committee and that the name of its chairman be sent to the president of the college.

33. The body then adjourned to 7:30 tonight, with prayer by J. L. Gregory.

WEDNESDAY--EVENING SESSION.

34. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 o'clock, and began with the usual service of prayer and praise.

35. The special order for this hour was the report on Temperance. G. A. Hornady, chairman, which, when called for, the chairman announced that he had overlooked the fact that he was on the committee, and was not prepared with a report. On motion, he was allowed to furnish his report to the Clerk for publication in the minutes and the discussion of the subject was entered upon without report, and discussed by G. A. Hornady, J. W. D. Upshaw, J. A. McCarley. At this point a motion was carried to limit speeches to ten minutes and discussion was continued by W. R. Whatley, J. D. Abernathy, C. J. Burden and W. T. Davis.

36. Adjourned to 9 o'clock tomorrow, with prayer by A. C. Miller.

37. The following is the report as submitted by the chairman for insertion in the minutes:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

It gives your committee no pleasure to say that, within the bounds of our association, there has been, at some points, a retrograde movement along the lines of temperance. Bar-rooms now exist where, twelve months ago, these fruitful sources of evil had no foothold. And yet, while this is true, there is comfort in knowing that, in the

main, there is an improved condition in many of the churches in reference to the sale and use of intoxicants. We believe that there is an upward tendency in the sentiment regarding the evils of intemperance. Total abstinence is the accepted platform upon the part of Christians. No member of any church who respects his own character, or the fair name of the cause of Christ, can ally himself with the enemies to temperance; for it is claimed by the church and admitted by the world, that no Christian can side in any way with the liquor traffic without bringing dishonor upon his profession, and thereby lessening his usefulness. The growing sentiment of the times is that no man, whether Christian or not, will be considered true to his citizenship, family or church who deals in or uses strong drink as a beverage. No one will deny that the sale and use of strong drink is not only a great wrong, but a gigantic curse upon society and the state. The liquor business in all its phases is an enemy to public interest, a disgrace to the Christian power of any community, and a blot upon civilization. If the Christians in our churches will arise in the might of their power and influence against this terrible enemy, it will not be long before it will be banished from our borders and the cause of the Master will progress as it has never done before.

Respectfully submitted,

G. A. HORNADY.

THURSDAY—MORNING SESSION.

38. The association was called to order at 9 o'clock and devotional exercises were enjoyed.

39. The pending question being that of temperance, it was moved to pass that question.

40. The report on Religious Literature was read as follows:

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

Under this caption it is usual to call attention to other literature than books. Religious newspapers, periodicals, reviews, Sunday School helps, leaflets and tracts make up the literature to which we wish to call attention. The religious press is a mighty power for good, but it may not always be for good. Religious papers conducted for the mere purpose of making a living, or a few spare dollars, are apt to be conducted with as small an output of brain and money as possible, and will never advance the cause of religion much; indeed, they may really hinder it. Such papers can never challenge the admiration and patronage of thoughtful readers, and should be replaced with better ones. Whining for patronage, when there is nothing to patronize, is not very entertaining. If pastors should occupy their fields merely to win bread, and should do as cheap work as possible, they would soon become very contemptible. Do religious papers deserve any better treatment than pastors? If so, why so? Proprietors and editors of religious papers should realize the importance and dignity of their position and work and give to it their entire force. Such

work should not be made a side issue. Christians should also realize the dignity and importance of religious newspapers and general religious literature and bestow such patronage and support as will enable such literature to accomplish its high mission.

We need not say that we recommend the Alabama Baptist to you for your patronage. What else could we afford to say? Of all papers in the world we should wish to see it sustained and strengthened. We recommend it to every Baptist home in Alabama—beyond our State paper we recommend the Western Recorder, Louisville, Ky., as a strong safe Baptist paper; the very best one that we know of. Our State Mission Journal, Montgomery, Ala., The Home Field, Atlanta, Ga., and the Foreign Mission Journal, Richmond, Va., are worthy of your patronage. For Sunday School helps, we recommend the Convention Series, published at Nashville, Tenn. For pamphlets, tracts, and leaflets, and also religious books, the American Baptist Publication Society is our best source of supply, and is worthy of your patronage.

Fraternally,

J. L. GREGORY,
W. G. PHILLIPS,
R. A. GAINES,
W. Y. HARRISON,
Committee.

41. The report was discussed by J. G. Harris, J. L. Gregory, W. C. Bledsoe, and adopted.

42. Report on Deceased Ministers was read and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS.

Your committee is glad to be able to say that not one of our ministers has died since the last session of the East Liberty association. God be praised for his blessing.

W. P. COFIELD,
Chairman.

43. On motion R. A. J. Cumbee was allowed to take a collection for Bethel church, Tallapoosa. Amount given \$21.50.

44. The following resolution was passed:

In view of the many mistakes Dr. W. H. Whitsitt has made, and in view of the many and grave objections urged against his teachings, therefore be it

Resolved, That in the judgment of the East Liberty association it would be greatly to the interest of our Southern Baptist Zion for Dr. Whitsitt to retire or be retired from his connection with the Southern Baptist Seminary.

45. The following Fifth Sunday Meetings were appointed:

- 1, Roanoke, 2, Tallapoosa—October, 1897.
- 3, Mt. Zion, 4, Cusseta—January, 1898.
- 5, Farmville, 6, Fredonia—May, 1898.
- 7, Sandy Creek, 8, Pleasant Ridge—July, 1898

46. The report of Committee on Nominations was read and adopted as follows:

We, your Committee on Nominations, report: For Executive Committee—John P. Shaffer, R. A. J. Cumbee, Jos. H. Johnson, W. C. McIntosh, G. J. Sorrell, James Johnson, W. S. Herren and W. C. Roeck.

To preach next Annual sermon—Elder A. S. Brannan; alternate, Elder W. J. D. Upshaw.

We would respectfully recommend that the Executive Committee continue in the work of aiding weak churches within the boundary of our association.

Respectfully submitted,
I. T. MORGAN, Ch'n.

47. Standing committees were announced. (See close of minutes.)

48. On motion it was decided to hold the next session of this Association with the Bethel church, Chambers county, beginning on Tuesday after first Sunday in October, 1898.

49. The following resolutions were adopted:

1. The usual resolution of thanks.
2. That the Secretary be allowed \$25.00 for his services.

50. The report of Finance Committee read and adopted. (See close of minutes.)

51. On motion to adjourn the hand of parting was given while a song was sung.

52. The closing prayer was offered by Z. D. Roby.

53. The Moderator then announced the Association adjourned to meet with the church at Bethel, Chambers county, Ala., on Tuesday after 1st Sunday in October, 1898.

JNO. P. SHAFFER, MODERATOR.

W. C. BLEDSOE, Secretary.

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

Bledsoe, W. C.	LaFayette,	Alabama
Bledsoe, Jas. O.	Beulah,	"
Bedell, W. H.	Waverly,	"
Brannan, A. S.	Camp Hill,	"
Burden, C. J.	LaFayette,	"
Bell, G. L.	Jackson's Gap,	"
Cumbee, R. A. J.	Dadeville,	"
Cumbee, J.	Stroud,	"
Culpepper, C. T.	Langdale,	"
Coffield, W. P.	Fredonia,	"
Cox, G. W.	Roanoke,	"
Duffy, D. S.	Denver,	"
Foster, W. T.	Camp Hill,	"
Gregory, J. L.	Easton,	"
Heard, C. C.	LaFayette,	"
Hornady, G. A.	LaFayette,	"
Hunter, J. P.	LaFayette,	"

Lloyd, W. E.	Auburn,	Alabama
McCarley, A. J.	Blackman,	"
Newman, L. L.	Jackson's Gap,	"
Newman, G. S.	LaFayette,	"
Robinson, W. A.	Dadeville,	"
Shaffer, J. P.	Dadeville,	"
Stodghill, J. R.	Five Points,	"
Smith, E. C.	Fredonia,	"
Tucker, A. O.	Blackman,	"
Upshaw, W. J. D.	Roanoke,	"
Weaver, G. F.	Louina,	"

LICENSED MINISTERS.

Davis, W. T.	LaFayette,	Alabama.
Guinn, J. M. K.	Langdale,	"
Sitsey, D. W.	Louina,	"
Stroud, L. B.	LaFayette,	"

STANDING COMMITTEES.

1. On Foreign Missions—G. A. Hornady, J. S. Wooddy, W. H. Betts, A. C. Bennett.
2. On Home Missions—J. P. Hunter, T. N. Jones, W. D. Warlick, W. W. Crouch.
3. On State Missions—A. S. Brannan, W. H. Payne, W. T. Herren, W. S. Talbot.
4. On Sunday Schools—W. J. D. Upshaw, J. D. Abernathy, Jas. D. Norman, J. R. Rotten.
5. On Education—W. C. Bledsoe, F. P. Nichols, M. V. Maley, J. B. Barrow.
6. On Temperance—J. L. Gregory, J. L. Denney, I. T. Morgan, W. C. Roeck.
7. On Religious Literature—R. A. J. Cumbee, Chas. Henderson, J. W. Foster, W. H. Payne.
8. On Orphanage—G. L. Bell, J. H. Johnson, W. H. Stone, R. Neighbors.
9. On Religious Condition of the Churches—J. O. Bledsoe, J. W. Dabbs, G. W. Hill, G. W. Newman.
10. On Deceased Ministers—C. J. Burden, W. W. Cofield, J. A. McCarley, T. N. Jones.

CONTRIBUTED BY SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Antioch, missions	\$ 11 60
Beulah, missions	10 00
Bethlehem, missions	11 33
Cusseta, missions	38 86
Center, missions	10 00
Camp Hill, missions	75 00
Dadeville, missions	42 00
Farmville, Orphans' Home	34 17
LaFayette, missions, Orphans' Home, &c	238 35
Lanett, missions	5 00
Milltown, missions	8 00
Pleasant Ridge missions	6 17
Roanoke, missions and Orphans' Home	79 00
Rock Mills, Orphans' Home and missions	14 00
Total	\$583 48

CONTRIBUTED BY SUNBEAMS.

LaFayette, missions.....\$22 00

CONTRIBUTED BY LADIES' SOCIETIES.

Cusseta, missions and Orphans' Home.....\$ 34 50
 LaFayette, missions, Orphans' Home, &c.....66 45
 Roanoke, missions and Orphans' Home.....71 67
 Total,.....\$172 62

(A careful study of the letters shows nothing specially interesting for record beyond what the minutes contain. Such a variety of forms of letters are used that much information is not given. Before next Association the Secretary will furnish each church with an improved form of Associational Letter and every one of the Clerks of churches is earnestly asked to use same.— W. C. B.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The churches have sent up in cash and vouchers the following amounts:

1.	For State Missions	\$ 644 65
2.	Home Missions.....	181 15
3.	Foreign Missions (\$5 from LaFayette, \$3 from Bethlehem for Miss Kelly).....	344 28
4.	Ministerial Education.....	91 06
5.	Aged and Infirm Ministers, their widows and orphans.....	65 92
6.	Orphans' Home.....	293 21
7.	Howard College.....	32 50
8.	Judson Institute.....	57 40
9.	Aid to Liberty church.....	36 00
10.	“ Five Points church.....	10 00
11.	“ Center church.....	7 50
12.	“ Bethel (C) church.....	20 00
13.	“ Mary church.....	31 00
14.	“ Friendship church (Col).....	60 00
15.	“ Lanette church.....	74 00
16.	“ Weak churches.....	93 15
17.	“ India sufferers.....	14 67
18.	For Bible and Colportage.....	7 50
19.	“ Minutes.....	71 80
20.	Public collection for Bethel (Tal).....	21 50
21.	Gift to Z. D. Roby.....	65 50
	Total.....	\$2222 79

Of this amount there are vouchers.....\$1370 19
 “ “ “ is cash.....852 60

\$2222 79

It is proper to say that some of the churches included in State Missions their contributions to aid weak churches; this is specially true of Dadeville and Camp Hill churches. Also the amount sent for

evangelization of colored people is placed in State Missions, as it is part of that work. Also, the amount to Miss Kelly is placed in Foreign Missions, but will be reported separately by the State Secretary. We have examined your Treasurer's vouchers and find them correct.

W. R. DAWSON, Chairman.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 279.15 \\
 21.50 \\
 \hline
 300.65
 \end{array}$$

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF EAST LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1897.

CHURCHES.

	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Ministerial Educat'n	Aged and Infirm Ministers.	Orphanage.	Howard College.	Judson Institute.	Liberty.	Five Points.	Center.	Bethel (C.)	Mary.	Lanette.	Weak Churches.	Bible and Colportage	Minutes.	Cash.	Vouchers.	TOTAL.
Antioch	\$33.10	\$5.00	\$5.83	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$5.00			\$2.50		\$2.50						\$2.00	\$24.62	\$37.40	\$62.02
Bethel	13.98	2.25	1.27	5.00	11.25	5.00									10.00		2.50	11.02	23.98	35.00
Bethlehem	35.00	5.50	23.00		2.92											5.00	1.50	49.29	31.96	81.25
Bethel, C.	3.00					4.08											3.00	3.00	26.15	29.15
Bethel, L.	3.20	1.30	1.30			1.27									16.15		1.00	4.87	3.20	8.07
Casseta	45.91	13.61															1.50	6.22	87.51	98.73
Center	5.00	2.80	5.00			3.00			2.50				2.50	2.50			2.00	14.80	13.00	27.80
County Line	20.00		20.00	10.00	2.50	10.00	5.00							10.00			3.00	67.80	13.00	80.80
Camp Hill	48.76	4.00	11.65	10.00		23.40		7.40									3.00	104.30	106.80	210.10
Dadeville	107.01	10.00	25.00	20.00	5.00	54.92	11.50								12.00	2.50	3.00	15.75	104.08	236.85
Eagle Creek	2.50																2.50	8.00	12.00	20.00
Farmville	19.75					34.17											2.50	2.50	2.50	56.42
Five Points	5.00					3.00									5.00		1.40	8.60	5.00	11.40
Fellowship, R.	1.00		1.00														1.15	1.15		1.15
Fellowship, T.																	1.30	13.80		13.80
High Pine	1.50	2.00	1.50	1.00	2.50	1.50	1.00		1.50					15.00	15.00		3.00	13.80	32.57	49.37
LaFayette*	100.00	50.00	93.18	10.00	2.50	74.08		50.00	10.00			5.00					2.50	17.50	5.00	22.50
Lanendale	5.00		2.50		2.50	5.00											2.50	6.75	10.00	16.75
Lebanon	2.50		1.50		1.25										10.00		2.00	10.00	2.25	12.25
Liberty	3.25	2.00		1.00	2.50	1.00								20.00			2.00	24.50	19.62	44.12
Lanette	19.62														5.00		75	2.85	5.00	7.85
Mary	2.10					15.75								5.00	5.00		2.50	27.50	3.00	30.50
Milltown	5.65	2.30	10.60			3.00			6.00								1.50	6.00	6.00	11.50
Mt. Zion	1.00		1.00			10.00								20.00	5.00		3.00	64.85	16.86	81.84
New Hope	8.84				5.00	10.00			1.00	5.00							1.00	11.50	11.50	23.49
Provident	3.49	2.50			3.00	2.50							8.50				1.50	9.50	12.00	21.50
Pleasant Ridge	2.00		2.00	1.00	1.00	15.00								10.00			3.00	75.00	23.00	98.00
Roanoke	88.72	63.00	66.92	20.00	20.00	3.00	15.00		10.00	5.00				2.50			3.00	25.00	18.88	43.38
Rock Spring, C.	15.03	6.79	5.00	2.50		2.50											3.00	16.50	16.50	33.00
Rock Mills	7.50					3.15									5.00		4.00	4.47	5.00	9.47
Rock Spring, T.			32														1.00	11.00	17.80	28.80
River View	10.00	2.50	2.50		2.50							7.50					2.00	9.50	17.80	27.30
Sandy Creek	10.30		1.80			95											1.10	9.45	6.70	15.65
Shiloh	3.50	2.00	2.00			2.00								10.00			1.50	15.50	6.00	21.50
Talaposa	7.85																			7.85
Waverly	9.00		9.00																	9.00
Public Collection																				
TOTALS	\$644.65	\$181.15	\$344.28	\$801.06	\$65.92	\$203.21	\$292.50	\$57.40	\$36.00	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$20.00	\$31.00	\$74.00	\$98.15	\$7.50	\$71.80	\$852.60	\$1370.10	\$2222.79

*LaFayette gave \$60.00 for Friendship Church (Col.), and \$14.67 for Indian Sufferers.



